The intricacies of living in contemporary Latin American cities include cases of both empowerment and restriction. In Lima, residents built their own homes and formed community organizations, while in Rio de Janeiro inhabitants of the favelas needed to be “pacified” in anticipation of international sporting events. Aspirations to “get ahead in life” abound in the region, but so do multiple limitations to realizing the dream of upward mobility. This volume captures the paradoxical histories and experiences of urban life in Latin America, offering new empirical and theoretical insights to scholars.

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Chapter 1. The Consolidation of the Latin American City and the Changing Bases for Social Order
Bryan R. Roberts

Chapter 2. Proximity, Crime, Politics and Design: Medellín’s Popular Neighbourhoods and the Experience of Belonging
Gerard Martin and Marijke Martin

PART II: FAMILY AND BELONGING IN CONSOLIDATED SETTELEMENTS

Chapter 3. Debe Ser Esfuerzo Propio: Aspirations and Belongings of the Young Generation in the Old Barriadas of Southern Lima, Peru
Michaela Hordijk

Chapter 4. Housing Inheritance and Succession among Pioneer Squatters and Self Builders: A Mexican Case Study
Erika Denisse Grajeda

Chapter 5. ‘Favela Modelo’: A Study on Housing, Belonging and Civic Engagement in a ‘Pacified’ Favela in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Palloma Menezes

PART III: SPACES OF THE URBAN MIDDLE CLASS

Chapter 6. Housing Policy in the City of Buenos Aires: Some Reflections on the Programa Federal
Fernando Ostuni and Jean-Louis Van Gelder

Chapter 7. The Boom of High-Rise Apartment Buildings in Buenos Aires: New Spaces of Residentiality or a Motor of Disintegration?
Jan Dohnke and Corinna Hölzl

Chapter 8. Living With Style in My Casa GEO: Large-scale Housing Conjuntos in Urban Mexico
Cristina Inclán-Valadez

PART IV: ARCHITECTURAL AND SPATIAL REPRESENTATIONS

Chapter 9. Illiterate Modernists: Tracking the Dissemination of Architectural Knowledge in Brazilian Favelas
Fernando Luiz Lara

Chapter 10. Towards Belonging: Design and Dwelling Practices in Santa Marta, Colombia
Peter Kellett

Chapter 11. (Re)Building the City of Medellín: Beyond State Rhetoric vs. Personal Experience — A Call for Consolidated Synergies
Jota (José) Samper and Tamera Marko

PART V: REFLECTIONS

Chapter 12. Home and Belonging: Reflections From Urban Mexico
Ann Varley

Chapter 13. One Block at a Time: Performing the Neighbourhood
Arij Ouweneel

List of Contributors
Index